

Statistics on hospitalisations due to injuries and poisonings in 2021

In 2021, approximately 145,000 people were hospitalised as a result of injury. This represents almost 17 percent of all the people who were hospitalised. Of these 145,000 people, approximately 96,000 received treatment due to accidents, 41,000 due to complications of medical and surgical care, 6,600 due to self-harm and 1,400 due to violence.

Minor changes compared to 2020

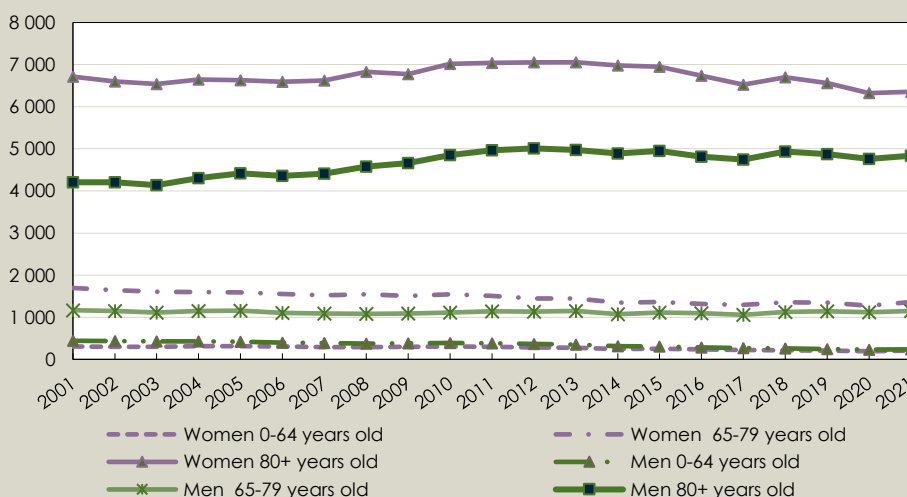
In 2021, 145,000 people were hospitalised as a result of an injury, compared with 2020 when 141,000 people were hospitalised as a result of an injury. More people were hospitalised for accidents and complications of medical and surgical care during 2021. Fewer people were hospitalised for assault. The number of people hospitalised for self-harm decreased, but an increase is noted for women.

Seven in ten accidents are falls

As in previous years, falls are by far the most common cause of injury resulting in hospitalisations. Falls comprise around 73 percent of all accidents, which corresponds to approximately 70,000 people – 40,000 women (53 per cent) and 30,000 men (47 per cent).

Figure 1. Fall accidents, 2001–2021, by sex and age

Number of persons per 100,000 inhabitants discharged from hospital



Source: Swedish National Patient Register, National Board of Health and Welfare

When it comes to the total number of accidents resulting in hospitalisations, the difference between women and men is smaller, 51,000 women (53 per cent) and

45,000 men (47 per cent). Falls are most common among the elderly and in 2021 nearly 74 per cent of the fall patients were aged 65 years or above. This group accounted for 80 per cent among women and for 66 per cent among men.

About 6 per cent of everyone aged 80 years or above were, at some point during 2021, hospitalised because of a fall. In this age group, fall accidents accounted for more than 90 percent of all accidents. Fall accidents have decreased somewhat since the beginning of the 2000s, but among men 80 years or older, an increase has occurred.

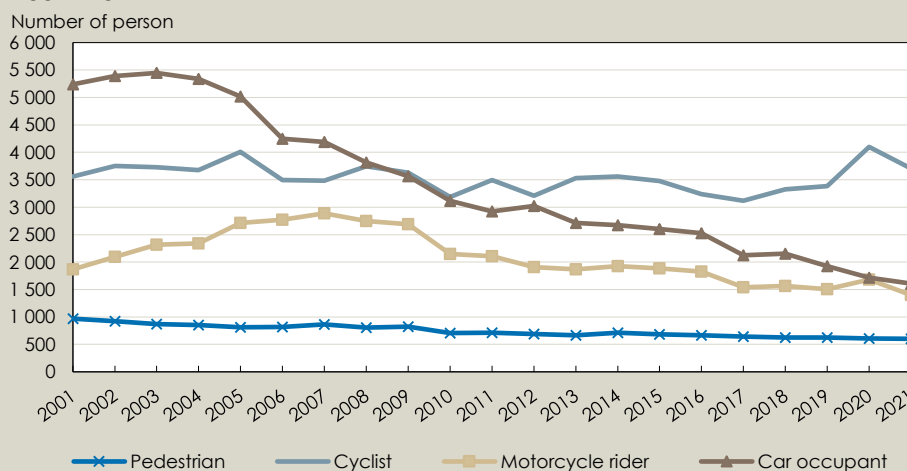
Femur fractures are most common

Of people hospitalised as a result of injury, femoral fracture is the most common main diagnosis. In 2021, 17,000 people, divided into 64 per cent women and 36 per cent men, received hospital treatment for femoral fractures. Some decline has occurred since the 2000s, especially for woman.

Accidents with cars decreased

In 2021, roughly 7,500 people were hospitalised as a result of road traffic accidents. Compared to 2020, this is a decrease with about nearly 800 persons; a large part of the decrease is due to fewer bicycle accidents and motorcycle accidents. Since the beginning of the 2000s the number of people that has been hospitalised due to road traffic accidents has decreased with about 4,400 persons. A very large part of this is due to a reduction in the number of persons treated as a result of car accidents – 1,600 in 2021 compared with 5,200 in 2001. Discharges caused by bicycle accidents was lower compared to 2020, but still high. In 2021, almost 3,700 people were hospitalised for bicycle accidents, which is the highest number since 2008, except 2020 when nearly 4,100 people were hospitalized as a result of bicycle accidents. Electric scooters and similar vehicles are classified as bicycles.

Figure 2. Road traffic accidents among some road user groups, 2001–2021



Source: Swedish National Patient Register, National Board of Health and Welfare

Ten years ago, it was by far most common for 15–24 year-olds to be hospitalised after road traffic accidents. However, in 2021, it was more common among 75–84 year-olds and older. A decline has taken place among younger people while the number of elderly people being cared for is at the same level as before.

More road accidents among men than women

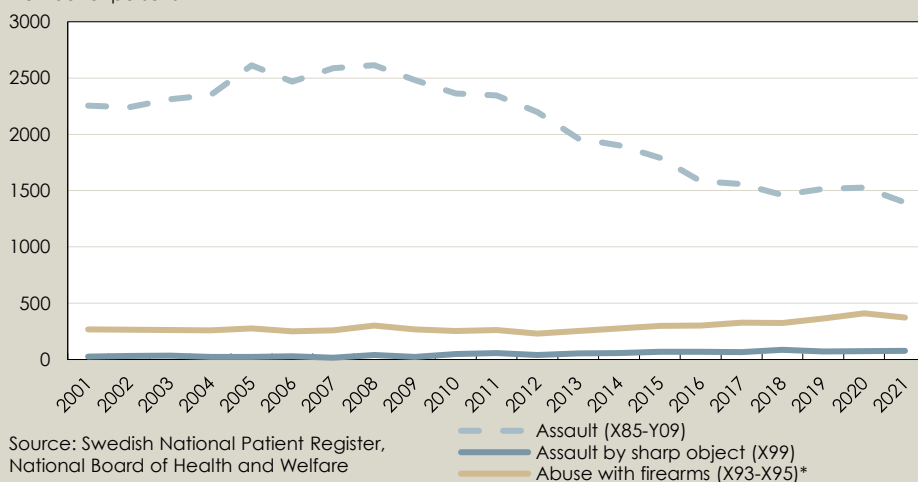
Almost twice as many men than women are hospitalised after a road traffic accident. The difference is mainly seen in the number of motorcycle accidents, which approximately 1,200 men and about 200 women were cared for in 2021.

The number of people hospitalised due to violence continues to decline

In 2021, approximately 1,400 people were hospitalised as a result of assault (X85-Y09), which is a decrease with about 130 persons compared to 2020. The number of people that were hospitalised as a result of assault is the lowest that has been measured during the measurement period 2001–2021. Since the beginning of the 2000s, the number of people that have been hospitalised as a result of violence has decreased by about 38 per cent. However, some categories have the opposite development, the number of people admitted to hospital due to assault by sharp objects (X99) has increased by 39 percent since 2001 and the number of people admitted to hospital as a result of assault with firearms (X93-X95) has increased by 200 percent since 2001. It is three times more common for men to be hospitalised as a result of violence compared to women, in 2021 1,070 men and 330 women were hospitalised as a result of assault. People who die on the spot as a result of assault by another person are not included in the statistics in this publication.

Figure 3. Assault, abuse by sharp objects and abuse with firearms 2001–2021

Number of persons



In 2021, nearly 6,600 people received hospital treatment for intentional self-harm. Since 2012, there has been a slight decrease in people who were cared for in hospital after intentional self-harm, during 2021 this trend continued when 95 fewer were hospitalised compared to 2020. For the year 2021, a small increase in the number of women hospitalised due to self-harm is noted compared to 2020. It is more common that women than men are cared for and many of them were young women aged 15–24. Among men, it is also most common in the age of 15–24. Nearly nine out of ten, 5,800 persons, have been hospitalised after intentional self-harm by intoxication, for example by pharmaceuticals.

Major regional differences

With regard to certain types of injuries, there are major regional differences. In 2021, fall accidents leading to hospitalisation among persons living on Gotland, where about 1 per cent of the population were hospitalised, were almost twice as common as in Uppsala County, where about 0.5 per cent of the population were hospitalised. However, the differences do not necessarily mean that there are higher risks in some regions. For example, the differences in fall accidents between the counties are reduced when the age structure in the county is considered. The decision to admit a person may be due to organisational reasons but also practical reasons, such as the distance between the hospital and the home.

Even in cases of intentional self-harm, regional differences are observed. In relation to population size, most hospitalisations in 2021 due to intentional self-harm were reported from the county of Jönköping. However, variations among counties may also depend on how healthcare works with intentional self-harm, which in turn affects the statistics.

Complications arising from medical care or surgery

In 2021, approximately 41,000 people received hospital treatment for complications, which is a decrease compared to 2020. This increased during the first decade of the 2000s (presumably due to an increased propensity to report instances). Because it includes so-called ‘expected’ complications and adverse effects of pharmaceuticals, this group is not suitable as a metric for care-related injuries.

More information

You can find more tables, diagrams and other information in the Excel file: www.socialstyrelsen.se/en/statistics-and-data/statistics/

If you want to use our statistical database (in Swedish):
<https://sdb.socialstyrelsen.se/ifska/val.aspx>

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